

I studied the ova for depressions and irregularities synonymous with infertility. Far from there being signs of weakness in the chorion it was not long before small, dark, twig-like larvae began to strut about the cage, some of the more restful individuals hanging impassively from the roof on strands of silken thread.

Unfortunately they survived for only four days despite constant attention. Not only did I question my ability as a lepidopterist, my sanity or at best my sobriety was under suspicion. There could be no mistake. From cot to deathbed this phenomenal female had been starved of contact with a member of the opposite sex.

One face-saving answer graciously presented itself to me and I gratefully accepted. This word, parthenogenesis, which I find exceedingly difficult to pronounce let alone comprehend, I simply choose to define as the development of an ovum without fertilization into a new individual. Whilst this may be perfectly acceptable in the eyes of an uncivilized aphid in a world where males may be absent, the higher and further developed elite of the *insecta* do rather tend to look down with compound eye upon this method of reproduction and as such is in my experience uncommonly encountered within the lepidoptera. I understand (please do not hesitate to correct me if I am wrong) that ova which develop in this way are usually diploid, in which case all offspring will be genetically identical with the parent. In this present age of mass produced stereotypes whatever happened to meiosis? — M. J. SYMES, 2 Montrouge Crescent, Epsom, Surrey, KT17 3NY.

LUMINOUS CENTIPEDES. — On the evening of 5th November 1979 I had a garden bonfire, more for the purpose of rubbish disposal than for celebration of the date. While forking up large prunings from a Lawson's cypress hedge I noticed a number of strongly luminous streaks beneath the wet prunings, and closer inspection showed them to be moving. Having obtained an electric torch it was found that the luminosity was coming from centipedes each of which was glowing along its entire length. — T. D. FEARNEHOUGH, 80 Wainsford Road, Everton, Lymington, Hampshire.

PARASCOTIA FULIGINARIA L.: WAVED BLACK IN SHROPSHIRE. — On the night of 8/9th August 1979, I operated my M.V. light at Whixall Moss. Among the 30-40 species which came to the light was a blackish geometrid-looking type of moth which I did not recognise. Further examination in daylight revealed it to be *Parascotia fuliginaria*, and my friend Mr. J. Briggs, of Beetham, confirmed this. This moth was exhibited at the Lancashire and Cheshire Entomological Society Exhibition on 3rd November. Is this the furthest north in this country that this species has been recorded? — J. G. WHITESIDE, Dover Farm, Hoghton, near Preston, PR5 0SJ.

LITHOPHANE ORNITOPUS HUFNAGEL: GREY SHOULDER-KNOT IN NORTH BUCKS. — The record of this moth being taken at Woking by C. G. M. de Worms prompts me to report the capture of one at Willen on 1.iv.1978. I have collected in this